



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION IX

75 Hawthorne Street  
San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

**MAR 17 2005**

Ms. Karen Smith  
Director  
Water Quality Division  
Arizona Department of Environmental Quality  
1110 W. Washington St.  
Phoenix, AZ 85007

Dear Ms. Smith:

On November 16, 2004, EPA partially approved and partially disapproved Arizona's 2004 §303(d) list. Specifically, EPA approved the State's decisions to list 53 waters and associated pollutants and set priority rankings for these waters. EPA disapproved the State's decisions not to list 19 waterbodies and not to list additional pollutants for 8 waters already listed by the State for other pollutants. EPA further identified these additional waterbodies and pollutants with appropriate priority rankings for inclusion on the 2004 §303(d) list.


EPA provided public notice and solicited public comment on its identification of additional waters and pollutants for inclusion on Arizona's list. The comment period closed December 27, 2004. EPA has carefully reviewed the comments received from the State and other commenters. Pursuant to the requirements of federal regulations at 40 CFR 130.7, I am hereby transmitting to you the final 2004 §303(d) list for Arizona which includes additional waters and additional pollutants for several waters already listed by the State, in addition to the 53 waters listed by the State. The additional waters and pollutants included on the final list are listed in Enclosure 1 to this letter. A detailed responsiveness summary, which discusses public comments received and EPA's responses, is also enclosed (Enclosure 2).

With three exceptions, the additional waters and pollutants added to the list and priority rankings are identical to those identified by EPA on November 16, 2004. First, Butte Creek is not included on the final list for mercury because our review of all available data, including recently submitted data, indicates there is insufficient evidence of impairment. Second, the final mercury listing for Boulder Creek is modified to include a shorter segment of Boulder Creek (from Wilder Creek to Butte Creek) than was identified in our initial decision. EPA concluded that available data does not indicate impairment in the downstream segment (Boulder Creek from Butte Creek to Copper Creek). Third, EPA is setting a low priority ranking for the mercury listings in Boulder Creek (unnamed tributary to Wilder Creek), Boulder Creek (Wilder Creek to Butte Creek), and Burro Creek to reflect our understanding of the State's current monitoring and TMDL development priorities.

EPA received five comment letters. Most of the comments focused on three issues- the use of fish consumption advisories as evidence of water quality standards violations, the application of narrative water quality standards for listing purposes, and the evaluation of exceedences of numeric standards for toxic pollutants. Except for Butte Creek, Boulder Creek, and Burro Creek (discussed above), we concluded that none of the comments warrants modifying the list of additional waters and pollutants identified by EPA.

We greatly appreciate the assistance provided by your staff in reviewing the comments received concerning EPA's listing decision and look forward to working with the State during the 2006 listing process. If you have questions on any aspect of this final listing decision, feel free to give me a call at (415) 972-3572 or call Peter Kozelka at (415) 972-3448.

Sincerely,

  
Alexis Strauss, 17 March 2004  
Director, Water Division

Enclosures

Enclosure 1: List of Waters and Pollutants Added to Final 2004 Arizona Section 303(d) List

Description of Table Columns:

“Water Body” column identifies the water bodies on the 303(d) list.

“Watershed” column identifies the geographical location of the water body based on State’s designation.

“Water body ID” column specified the water body segment based on State’s designation.

“Pollutants” column identifies the specific pollutants for which the water bodies were found to exceed water quality standards.

“Basis for Listing” column identifies the basis for individual listing decisions.

“Priority Ranking” column indicates the priority ranking for TMDL development associated with an individual listing decision  
(H = High; M = Medium; L = Low priority)

Water Body	Watershed	Water body ID	Pollutants	Basis for listing	Priority ranking
Coors Lake	Bill Williams	AZL 15030204-5000	Mercury	Exceeded narrative water quality standards due to fish consumption advisory	M
Soldier’s Annex Lake	Little Colorado River	AZL 15020008-1430	Mercury	Exceeded narrative water quality standards due to fish consumption advisory	M
Soldier’s Lake	Little Colorado River	AZL 15020008-1440	Mercury	Exceeded narrative water quality standards due to fish consumption advisory	M
Long Lake	Little Colorado River	AZL 15020008-0820	Mercury	Exceeded narrative water quality standards due to fish consumption advisory	M
Lyman Lake	Little Colorado River	AZL 15020001-0850	Mercury	Exceeded narrative water quality standards due to fish consumption advisory	M
Parker Canyon Lake	Upper Gila	AZL 15050301-1040	Mercury	Exceeded narrative water quality standards due to fish consumption advisory	M

<b>Water Body</b>	<b>Watershed</b>	<b>Water body ID</b>	<b>Pollutants</b>	<b>Basis for listing</b>	<b>Priority ranking</b>
Lakeside Lake	Santa Cruz	AZL 15050302-0760	Nitrogen and Phosphorus, Chlorophyll	Exceeded narrative nutrient water quality standards	H
Lower Colorado R. Silver Ck - Carr Wash	Little Colorado River	AZ 15020002-004	Sediment	Exceeded narrative water quality standard	L
Gila River-Bonita Ck - Yuma Wash	Upper Gila	AZ 15040005-022	Sediment	Exceeded narrative water quality standard	L
San Francisco River-Hdwtr - NM border	Upper Gila	AZ 15040004-023	Sediment	Exceeded narrative water quality standard	L
Boulder Creek Unnamed trib-Wilder Creek	Bill Williams	AZ 15030202-006B	Mercury	Exceeded numeric standards for aquatic & wildlife	L
Boulder Creek Wilder Creek-Butte Creek	Bill Williams	AZ 15030202-005A	Mercury	Exceeded numeric standards for aquatic & wildlife	L
Burro Creek Boulder Creek-Black Cyn	Bill Williams	AZ 15030202-004	Mercury	Exceeded numeric standards for aquatic & wildlife	L
Brewery Gulch	San Pedro	AZ 15080301-337	Copper	Exceeded numeric standards for aquatic & wildlife	M
Granite Creek	Verde	AZ 15060202-059A	Dissolved Oxygen (DO)	Exceeded numeric water quality standards	L
Bear Canyon Lake	Little Colorado River	AZL 1502008-0130	pH	Exceeded numeric water quality standards	L
Rose Canyon Lake	Santa Cruz	AZL 15050302-1260	pH	Exceeded numeric water quality standards	L
Watson Lake	Verde	AZL 15060202-1590	Nitrogen, DO, pH	Exceeded numeric water quality standards	M
Tonto Creek	Salt	AZ 15060105-013A	Dissolved	Exceeded numeric water	M

<b>Water Body</b>	<b>Watershed</b>	<b>Water body ID</b>	<b>Pollutants</b>	<b>Basis for listing</b>	<b>Priority ranking</b>
hdwtr—unnamed trib			Oxygen	quality standards	
Tonto Creek hdwtr—unnamed trib	Salt	AZ 15060105-013A	Nitrogen	Exceeded numeric water quality standards	M
Tonto Creek unnamed trib— Haigler Cr.	Salt	AZ 15060105-013B	Nitrogen	Exceeded numeric water quality standards	M